REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make editorial changes thereto and generally improve the form thereof, and a substitute specification and abstract are provided. No new matter has been added by the substitute specification and abstract.

By the current Amendment, claims 1-16 have been cancelled and claims 17-27 have been added. New claims 17-27 have been drafted taking into account the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issues raised by the Examiner, are believed to be free of these issues, and are otherwise believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The instant invention pertains to a chromatography measuring method utilizing a biosensor. Such a measuring method is generally known in the art, but suffers from drawbacks as expressed on pages 1-5 of the original specification. Applicants have addressed and resolved these drawbacks by providing a unique chromatography measuring method.

Specifically, in accordance with a first embodiment the inventive chromatography measuring method includes measuring a bonding amount of a marker reagent in a marker reagent bonding amount measurement area 7 of an antibody immobilization part 4, and further measuring, in an eluted marker reagent amount measurement area 6, an amount of the marker reagent that has been eluted from a marker reagent hold part 2 located upstream of the antibody immobilization part 4. The measured amount of the marker reagent that has been eluted from the marker reagent hold part 2 is used to correct the measured bonding amount of the marker reagent in the marker reagent bonding amount measurement area 7.

In accordance with a second embodiment the inventive chromatography measuring method includes measuring a bonding amount of a marker reagent in a marker reagent bonding amount measurement area 7 of an antibody immobilization part 4, and further measuring, in a marker reagent residual amount measurement area 8 of a marker reagent hold part 2, an amount of the marker reagent which was not eluted from the marker reagent hold part 2. The measured amount of the marker reagent that has not been eluted from the marker reagent hold part 2 is used to correct the

measured bonding amount of the marker reagent in the marker reagent bonding amount measurement area 7.

Because the measured bonding amount of the marker reagent in the marker reagent bonding amount measurement area 7 is corrected as described above, a more accurate measurement of the quality or quantity of components in an inspection target solution can be realized. Claim 17 is believed to be representative of each of the above embodiments.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DeLaCroix et al. DeLaCroix is not applicable with regard to the newly added claims for the following reasons.

Claim 17 generally corresponds to a combination of former claims 1 and 2, while at the same time being generic for each of the above described first and second embodiments. In this regard, new claim 17 recites

> A chromatography measuring method comprising:
> holding a marker reagent in a first part of a development portion of a biosensor;
> developing an inspection target solution on said development portion, thereby eluting said marker reagent from said first part of said development portion;
> in a second part of said development portion, immobilizing said marker reagent that has been eluted from said first part of said development portion;
> measuring a bonding amount of said marker reagent that has been immobilized in said second part of said development portion, thereby determining a quality or quantity of components in said inspection target solution;
> measuring one of
> (i) an amount of said marker reagent that has not been eluted from said first part of said development portion, and
> (ii) an amount of said marker reagent that has been eluted from said first part of said development portion; and
> correcting the measured bonding amount of said marker reagent, that has been immobilized in said second part of said development portion, in response to a corresponding one of
> (i) the measured amount of said marker reagent that has not been eluted from said first part of said development portion, and
> (ii) the measured amount of said marker reagent that has been eluted from said first part of said development portion.

Such a chromatography measuring method is not taught or suggested by DeLaCroix et al.

In this regard, DeLaCroix et al. discloses that waste pad 22 can be used as a measuring point. This reference also discloses that an element which is not trapped by trapper pad 20 can be washed into the waste pad 22, and that the element which is not trapped can be measured as well as, or in preference to, the trapped element.

However, DeLaCroix et al. does not disclose that a measurement value of the element which is trapped by the trapper pad 20 is "corrected" by a measurement value of the element which is not trapped. Thus, the "correcting" operation as recited in the final six lines of claim 17 is lacking from DeLaCroix et al., whereby claim 17 is not anticipated by DeLaCroix et al. Accordingly, claims 17-27 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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